



St. Mary's Football Club

Match Report

Under 16

St. Mary's FC 3 – 2 North End Utd

Man of the Match: Gerard Christie Goalscorers: Jordan Rhodes(27), Ruairi Donaghy (68), Fiontan Eastwood (75)

This game was the toughest yet of the new season with North End proving to be a threat throughout the game. St. Mary's started the game very bright as usual, however, after a number of chances went wide it looked like it was to be one of those days.

St. Mary's got themselves into some great positions in the first five minutes and could have been 2 – 0 up in no time. After a number of chances went wide the game opened up and North End began to hit back with great pace down the wings and strength throughout the middle of the pitch. St. Mary's were pushed onto the back foot for a brief 10 minute spell but defended well. The ball finally bounced in our favour 30 minutes into the game and Jordan Rhodes was there to make it 1-0.

The first half consisted of a hard fought battle for the ball all over the pitch, Gerard Christie's tackling stood out as he consistently won the ball back for St. Mary's on a number of occasions. Although North End enjoyed spells of possession, they didn't trouble Shay Bannon in nets as he came to collect a lot of loose passes but was not troubled by any shots.

St. Mary's went into the break 1-1 as it was very clear that North End would make it hard for St. Mary's to hold on to the lead. Not long before the end of the half, North End were gifted with a free kick on the edge of the box in which they converted well to make it 1-1.

The game was net to net at 1-1 and it was North End who went into the lead as they dominated almost every set piece with their height. At 2-1 St. Mary's had half an hour to get the game back. After a number of great passes from Ross Mackin and Martin Murphy in midfield, Jordan Rhodes was taken down in the box for a penalty. After missing the previous 3 penalties in a row it was Gerard Christie who would take his turn to finally score a penalty for St. Mary's. We had to wait longer for the equaliser as Gerard's shot smashed the cross-bar. Gerard didn't let this change his game as he kept on fighting for St. Mary's until the final whistle.

Whilst the defence worked very hard, especially the left and right backs Peter Healy and Jonathan Hoey, St. Mary's were pushing forward again and again for the equaliser. After several dribbles from Cormac Eastwood put North End onto the back foot, St. Mary's were fortunate to get the equaliser with 10 minutes to go as Ruairi Donaghy brilliantly scored his 3rd goal of the season from centre back, a goal in each game this year.

The match was packed with excitement throughout the second half and with five minutes to go St. Mary's bagged a winner as another centre back scored, Fiontan Eastwood the vice-captain who scored on his debut over a year ago against North End scoring the winner. St. Mary's now the only team in the league with a 100% record, still unbeaten over the last 10 months in the league.